



# Spotlight on CTE

**Highlighting Student Leadership Activities and  
Achievements in Career and Technical Education**

**December 2005**

## December Greetings to All!

*"The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"*

It's hard to believe the holidays are here already! In the rush to get everything done before students and staff leave for Christmas/Chanukah/Winter break, time becomes a precious commodity. We understand, but hope you will take just a moment to enjoy this issue, as we celebrate our **outstanding students** and CTE family. Pull up a chair. Savor a moment of rest.

Judging from my mailbag, FFA certainly has much to celebrate about this quarter! Many thanks to Dave Wyrick, our newest and most prolific state CTSO director to date, for terrific news about his FFA students! Go, Dave! There will be plenty of room in the March newsletter to share the "Spotlight", however, so I'm looking forward to hearing from many others, too!

Great News! We have discovered a **shortcut to the OCTP homepage!** For the legions who have gotten lost trying to find us on the web, just click on: [www.michigan.gov/octp](http://www.michigan.gov/octp) Voilà! Click on Career and Technical Education, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and there is the newsletter! You may have heard earlier, but it bears repeating.

As we look to the New Year, we are especially searching for **scholarship opportunities** for students to highlight in our March issue. Let us know what's on your mind! Contact Donna Beltz at [beltzd@michigan.gov](mailto:beltzd@michigan.gov) or (517) 373-8204 with questions or suggestions. Thank you! And peace and blessing be upon your New Year.

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## Braidie Laine Butters Named National FFA Winner

Equine Science - Placement Proficiency Award

Braidie Butters, who was featured in the July 2004 *Student Spotlight* in this newsletter, is in the news again! From the Homer, Michigan FFA Chapter, she was named national winner in the Equine Science - Placement Proficiency award at the 78<sup>th</sup> National FFA Convention, October 26-29, 2005 in Louisville, KY. Congratulations, Braidie!



Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excelled as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees, or volunteers while they gained hands-on career experience. Equine Science - Placement is one of 50 FFA proficiency award categories offered at local, state and national levels. The Equine Science - Placement proficiency award program is sponsored by Tractor Supply Company, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Working as a veterinary technician, Braidie helps do minor surgeries, blood analyses, and general health care of the horses. She is the daughter of Randy and Brenda Butters. Braidie began volunteering at the clinic at the age of 12 and progressed to a paid position. She is a graduate of Homer High School and is pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine at Michigan State University. Braidie's FFA Advisor is Lora Sommers.

FFA is a national youth organization of 490,017 student members preparing for leadership careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 7,210 local chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. FFA strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit: [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

# Student Spotlight

## MSU Student Elected National FFA Officer



After an intense selection process that included a series of six interviews, a written test and numerous hours of preparation, Ryan Peterson, of Niles, was elected **National FFA Organization Eastern Region Vice President**. His nomination was confirmed October 29 during the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. He is one of six individuals elected to hold national office out of 37 candidates. Congratulations, Ryan!

"We are proud of Ryan's achievement," said Dave Wyrick, Michigan FFA projects consultant. "Ryan has always been a hard worker, and seeing his dedication pay off is fulfilling and will no doubt help motivate other members to always do their best."

Ryan is a twenty-year old Michigan State University sophomore studying agribusiness management. He credits his MSU professors and other students for helping him prepare for the interview process, which took more than a week to complete. "They were always willing to sit down with me and discuss agriscience education and other topics," he said. "I have learned so much through this process. Actually being elected is just the icing on the cake." He believes his experiences as state FFA president helped pave the way for the national election. "Being a state officer gave me the opportunity to meet with state leaders, commodity groups, and professionals in business and industry," he said. "That really had a big influence on me."

Over the next year, Ryan will log more than 100,000 miles meeting with FFA members, agriscience teachers and FFA supporters as well as top business, government and education leaders across the country. He will also travel to Japan with his five fellow officers and other FFA members to learn about international agriculture.

His responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for the organizations' nearly 500,000 members, setting policies and promoting agricultural literacy. Though he is required to take the year off from his studies to serve the organization, he says there is no doubt that he will be back on campus when his term expires in January 2007.

A member of the Cassopolis FFA Chapter, Ryan was named chapter star farmer and was a member of state champion agricultural issues and parliamentary procedure career

development event teams. For his supervised agricultural experience (SAE) he raised and sold market steers and hogs, performed welding repairs and maintenance duties on his family's farm, and provided concrete landscaping for homes and businesses in his area. Ryan hopes to work in the cattle industry as a lobbyist or producer educator. He is the son of Rick and Nancy Peterson. His chapter advisor is Carrie George.

Jeffrey Armstrong, dean of the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, says Ryan's success has a positive influence on all students within the college. "We always like to see one of our own do well," said Armstrong, a former Kentucky FFA state officer. "I am thrilled for Ryan and confident that he will return from his year as a national officer with a richer, fuller outlook on the industry and will share his perspectives with other students."

The last time Michigan had a successful national officer candidate was in 1960, when Ronald Cook, of Marshall, was elected national secretary.

## National FFA STAR Awards Finalist from Michigan

**Thomas James Ross**, of St Louis FFA, Michigan, was one of 16 finalists selected by the National FFA Organization for one of the organization's top awards: **American Star in Agriscience**. (The other 3 award categories are American Star in Agribusiness, Star Farmer, and Star Agricultural Placement.)

Star Awards recognize students who have developed outstanding agricultural skill and competency through their career development programs, demonstrated outstanding management skills, earned the American FFA Degree - the organization's highest level of accomplishment - and met other agricultural education, scholarship and leadership requirements.

Each star finalist receives **\$1,000** from the National FFA Foundation and earns the opportunity to participate in an international experience **tour to Costa Rica!** A panel of judges then interviews the finalists and selects one winner for each award at the 78th National FFA Convention, October 26-29, in Louisville, Ky. Winners receive an additional \$1,000 award.

The American FFA Degree recognition programs and tours to Costa Rica are co-sponsored by BASF of Research Triangle Park, N.C.; Case IH of Lake Forest, Illinois; Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. of Des Moines, Iowa; and The Farm Credit System of Washington, D.C., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

"Stars Over America," a special audiovisual presentation featuring the Star Award winners, is produced by USDA Farm Services Agency as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

## DECA Member Scholarship Opportunities

**Deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup>!**

With many of our students already gearing up toward the end of high school, one of our main focuses is to provide them information and resources about scholarships. Many of them are apprehensive about how they are going to pay for college and will miss out on the opportunity because they think they can't afford it. Members of DECA need not to worry anymore. We want to make sure that they know about all of the possible DECA scholarship opportunities.

Did you know that every year DECA awards more than **\$250,000 in scholarship money**? DECA scholarship program participants include: American Express, Claire's Stores, Coca-Cola USA, Finish Line, Hilton, K-Mart, Marriott, NAPA, Otis Spunkmeyer, Sears, and Walgreen's, just to name a few. Last year, two Michigan DECA members were recipients: Misty Schiller from Montague High School and Matthew Renner from Novi High School.

This year, DECA has teamed up with the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) to promote outstanding student achievement within career and technical education. DECA is encouraging chapters to consider participation in the honor society as part of their annual program of work.

We want to make sure that our students are mindful of the fact that just because they apply for a scholarship, does not mean they will be awarded funds. There is a lot of competition that makes scholarships difficult to attain. The following are a few points that need to be stressed when discussing the scholarship process:

1. Understand the scholarship's mission.
2. Remember who your audience is.
3. Show how you fit within the scholarship's mission.
4. Be proud of your accomplishments.
5. Focus on leadership and contributions.
6. Make your application stand out.
7. Practice to make sure everything fits.
8. Get editors (revisers)!
9. Include a resume.
10. Make copies of your finished applications for reference.

**The deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup> for DECA scholarships.** A late application is never a winner. All scholarship applications and guidelines can be downloaded and/or printed at [www.deca.org/schol.html](http://www.deca.org/schol.html). Mail completed applications to:

**Michigan DECA, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti,  
MI 48197**

Year after year our students never cease to amaze us with their many accomplishments. This year will be no exception!

~ Dave Wait, DECA State Director

## Fundraising for FFA Foundation – New Director Named

*Excerpted from an article by Dennis Rudat (800) 292-2680, ext. 6586*

Megan Hirschman has been hired to lead the fund-raising activities of the Michigan FFA Foundation. She began her new duties as director of annual funds on Monday, November 7, 2005.

The Lansing-based Michigan FFA Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the Michigan FFA Association, fosters leadership development of 12- to 21-year-old students enrolled in Agriscience education programs.

Megan most recently served as area program administrator for the **Chevrolet/FFA Scholarship Program**, covering Michigan and seven other states. The Chevrolet/FFA Scholarship Program teams FFA chapters with their local Chevrolet dealership in a campaign that raises scholarship funding for FFA members, while giving donors the chance to **win a new Chevrolet vehicle!** During her first year covering a six-state territory, Hirschman's region boasted the highest program enrollment and participation. She was granted the leadership award for outstanding job performance with the Chevrolet/FFA Scholarship Program in 2004.

"Megan Hirschman already has contributed much to the FFA family, so we're very fortunate to have her talents focused on helping to grow the Michigan FFA," said Jim Schiller, Michigan FFA Foundation president and chief executive officer of GreenStone Farm Credit Services. "Her work experiences and institutional knowledge of Michigan agriculture and 4-H should serve the Foundation and Michigan's FFA youth very well."

Megan has also worked as a public affairs intern for the Dow Chemical Co., alumni relations assistant for the dean of the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Social Science, and communications assistant/event planner for the Governor's Council of Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

She grew up on a 4,500-acre cash crop farm in Gratiot County, where she was active in 4-H as a youth and in her adulthood as 4-H leader. The recipient of many 4-H awards, she received Gratiot County's 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award in 2001. She holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture and natural resources communication from MSU, where she specialized in public relations.

Her specific duties with the Michigan FFA Foundation include working with an 18-member board of directors and managing the Annual Fund campaign, Glassbrook FFA Endowment for K-12 agricultural education, annual FFA Masters golf outing, and the FFA collectible toy tractor sale.

Welcome, Megan!



## Michigan Youth Engineering and Science (YES) Expo 2005

YES! Expo 2005, hosted by Michigan Technical University (MTU) took place on October 26, 2005 at Ford Field in Detroit, MI. The YES! Expo mission is to inspire middle and high school students to pursue education and careers in engineering and science.



Corporations, universities, and organizations that thrive on high technology came together in a tradeshow style venue to share their excitement about engineering and science. Nearly 70 exhibits were located in the stadium's concourses and on the playing field. Exhibitors included 42 companies/organizations, along with 27 universities, colleges, and community colleges. In addition, a live/multimedia show featured interesting and fun aspects of technology-based careers.

Student interest in YES! Expo exceeded all expectations. Over 19,100 tickets sponsored by corporations were distributed. Excited and enthusiastic students attended from 191 schools, 20 Scout troops, 36 home school groups and numerous individual small groups.



Many positive comments were heard from teachers who attended, such as the teacher from Woodhaven High School, who said "I want to say first that all 120 of our students from our school had an excellent time and we thought that everything

about the Expo was an absolute success. We look forward to bringing a new group of students next year." Corporate exhibitors also found their time and investment valuable. Bitta Jost, from Caterpillar, Inc., said "We were so excited that our company was involved with YES! Expo. It was really encouraging to talk to high-schoolers about careers in engineering and science."

The success of YES! Expo is dependent on a unique collaboration between industry, educators, state government, and community organizations. These groups have a passion to see more students choose education and careers in science and engineering. Pete Cattelino, from MTU Corporate Services, expressed gratitude to sponsors, exhibitors and supporters for making YES! Expo a reality.

## 2005-2006 Calendar of Upcoming CTSO Events

### BPA:

March 16-19, 2006

[www.michiganbpa.org](http://www.michiganbpa.org)

State Leadership Conference  
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel  
Grand Rapids, MI

May 10-14, 2006

National Leadership Conference  
Orlando, FL

### DECA:

December 16, 2005

[www.mideca.org](http://www.mideca.org)

Jan. 4, 2006

District 1 Conference, Delta College  
District 2 Conference, Ferris State University

January 6

District 5 Conference, Eastern Michigan University

January 7

District 6 Conference, Waterford Kettering High School

January. 13

District 4 Conference, Eastern Michigan University

February 1

Deadline for: DECA Scholarship Applications due to Michigan DECA

February 4-7

Marketing The Magic Conference, Walt Disney World, FL

February 21

Sports & Entertainment Marketing Workshop, Palace of Auburn Hills

March 10 - 12

60th Annual State Career Development Conf., Hyatt Regency, Dearborn

April, 29 - May 3

60th International Career Development Conf., Dallas, TX

FCCLA:

[www.mifccla.org](http://www.mifccla.org)

FFA:

[www.michiganffa.com](http://www.michiganffa.com)

HOSA:

[www.michiganhosa.org](http://www.michiganhosa.org)

SkillsUSA

[www.miskillsusa.org](http://www.miskillsusa.org)

## State CTSO Director Corner

Newsletter Publishing Schedule:

### Articles Due:

August 1  
November 1  
February 1  
May 1

### Publish Date:

September  
December  
March  
June

Student organization directors **only**, please submit articles using the Newsletter Response Form. E-mail articles to Donna Beltz, Editor, at [beltzd@michigan.gov](mailto:beltzd@michigan.gov).

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